

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 38, line 24, with the following paragraph:

During operation, as the blade overtravel block 390 is driven by the air cylinder 384 to the extended position, the first and second link arms 400, 410 are pulled by the overtravel pins 412, which in turn pull the drive pins 398, 408 of the first and second locator arms 394, 404. This causes the first and second locator arms 394, 404 to rotate from the open position of Figure 14 to the closed position of Figure 15, and causes the first and second link arms to rotate to the position shown in Figures 15 and 16. The first locator arm 394 has a first insert 414 removably positioned at its end having a convex V shape 416, and the second locator arm 404 has a second insert 418 removably positioned at its end having a concave V shape 420. When the first and second link arms are rotated together as shown in Figure 15, the convex V insert ~~416~~ 414 clamps against the concave V insert 418 to secure the suture therebetween at the points of the Vs. The inserts are removable, and also secured in place, by set screws 422 in the link arms.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 39, line 12, with the following paragraph:

The overtravel pins 412 are not mounted fixedly to the overtravel block 386, but are mounted in elongated slots 424 in the overtravel block 390, and are mounted against ~~spring 426-loaded~~ spring-loaded pistons 428, which are biased by springs 426. After the locator arms 394, 404 clamp against each other, further movement of the overtravel block 390 causes the overtravel pins 412 to compress the ~~spring 426-loaded~~ spring-loaded pistons 428 and translate in their slots 424.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 39, line 20, with the following paragraph:

During a cutting operation, as the air cylinder 384 drives the blade overtravel block 390 to the right from the retracted position of Figure 14 to the extended position of Figure 15, the first link arm 400 and locator arm 394 are driven in clockwise rotations as viewed in Figures 14 and 15, and the second link arm 410 and locator arm 404 are driven in counterclockwise rotations as viewed in Figures 14 and 15. They are driven until the convex V insert ~~416~~414 positioned at the distant end of the first locator arm 394 is seated into the concave V insert 418 positioned at the end of the second locator arm 404 to assume the position of Figure 15, with the suture positioned and clamped between the points of the Vs of the inserts. The knife blade 392 is mounted on and is also driven to the right by the blade overtravel block 390 to assume the position shown in Figure 15.

Further movement to the right by the blade overtravel block 390 causes a compression of the springs 426 positioned behind the pistons 428, such that the inserts ~~416~~414, 418 and clamped suture are now stationary. However, further movement to the right by the blade overtravel block causes the knife blade 392 to continue to translate to the right relative to the then-stationary positioning inserts ~~416~~414, 418 and to sever the suture held therebetween. The cutting blade 392 translates along the side surfaces of the inserts, as best illustrated in Figure 17, and cuts the suture.